SOMATIC CELLS WITH ABLATED PrP GENE AND METHODS OF USE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention comprises a method for producing mammalian therapeutics free from prion contamination and cells for use in such methods. Such therapeutics are produced in somatic cells having a genome with an artificially altered PrP gene. The PrP gene in these cells may be ablated, or replaced by an exogenous inducible form of the PrP gene. The endogenous gene in the host cells may be disrupted, or disrupted and replaced by an exogenous PrP gene.